About this book

The title of this dissertation, “Dialogue at Work”, has three connotations. Firstly, the title refers to the implementation of dialogue in an institutionalized context: engaging in dialogue while being at work. The specific institution discussed in this dissertation concerns a mental healthcare organization in the Netherlands.

Secondly the title “Dialogue at Work” refers to the work that dialogue aims and attempts for, as well as the work that needs to be done to realize a practice of dialogue.

Thirdly the title refers to how dialogue as an intrinsic and normative aspect of a research design can contribute to the co-creation of the realization of a dialogical practice.

The physical format in which this thesis is presented is that of a square book, with four sides of equal length. This is no coincidence. This format represents one of the essential characteristics of dialogue as well as one of the key aspects of the underlying applied research design, namely that working towards and genuinely striving for deliberation is based on equality from all involved.